



Bad companions and drugs

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, who has commanded us to keep the company of the good and forbade us from keeping the company of other than them. And I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, may the peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows them in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, as Allah says:

الْأَخِلَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ إِلَّا الْمُتَّقِينَ

Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous. [Qur'an: 43:67]

O Believers:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said: **مَثَلُ الْجَلِيسِ الصَّالِحِ**

وَالسَّوِّءِ كَحَامِلِ الْمِسْكِ وَنَافِخِ الْكَبِيرِ، فَحَامِلِ الْمِسْكِ؛ وَإِمَّا أَنْ

يُحَدِّدُكَ، وَإِمَّا أَنْ تَبْتَاعَ مِنْهُ، وَإِمَّا أَنْ تَجِدَ مِنْهُ رِيحاً طَيِّبَةً، وَنَافِخُ

الْكَبِيرِ؛ إِذَا أَنْ يُحْرِقَ ثِيَابَكَ، وَإِمَّا أَنْ تَجِدَ رِيحاً خَبِيثَةً

"The example of a good pious companion and an evil one is that of a person carrying musk and another blowing a pair of bellows. The one who is carrying musk will either give you some perfume as a present, or you will buy some from him, or you will get a good smell from him. Whereas the one who is blowing a pair of bellows will either burn your clothes or you will get a bad smell from him."

[Bukhari and Muslim]

So, a true friend is someone who either guides you to the good or protects you from evil and the bad. For this reason, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) encouraged us to sit with good company and to avoid bad company. He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

said: **الْمَرْءُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ، فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنْ يُخَالِلُ**

A man follows the religion of his friend; so each person should consider whom he makes his friend. [Abu Dawud]

Sadly, most of the paths that lead to the taking of drugs, and the cycles of drug abuse and addiction are due to the presence of bad friends leading to bad company. So about 95% of those who fell into drug abuse were because of falling victim to evil friends and peers. This happened by sitting with them and turning towards them for support. In this regard, it is our responsibility as parents; as fathers and mothers; as elder siblings; as educators who are responsible towards young people, to support our youth in developing their moral and religious scrutiny. This entails we get to know their friends, and that importantly we make friends with them ourselves. Acting in accordance with the saying of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): **لَا تُصَاحِبْ إِلَّا مُؤْمِنًا**

"Do not take a friend as company except a believer" [Al-Tirmidhi]

This entails that we prepare for our youth a family atmosphere and appropriate environment wherein they can communicate openly and discuss freely about their issues. This includes discussing issues which include the dangers and risks of being exposed to drug abuse and addiction, so that they can be saved from them. This also includes issues such as the dangers of evil company in the form of bad friends, for about 90% of drug users cite themselves as resorting to drugs initially at the instigation of their friends and the negative company they kept.

This could only have happened because they sought intimacy and connection from those who in reality were only harming them. And they only reached to such people because of a vacuum they felt within their own families and circles, arising out of a lack of connection, a lack of felt love that arose from a lack of genuine bonds with their family members. And it should not be like this, for our children are a trust placed to us by Allah. So our religion makes it an obligation to look after the welfare of our children, whether it be physical, psychological or emotional. From this is the right our children have to our love, this entails we give them our attention and our hearts, for this is a Divine injunction and responsibility placed upon us.

So, we ask Allah that He preserve our children. That He preserve our families and their wellbeing. That He give us contentment and grant wellbeing to our families, societies and homelands. I say this and seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most-forgiving.

Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the One, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and companions, and whomsoever follows them in the best of ways.

O Believers: Please note that Article 43 of the Narcotics Law absolves criminal responsibility and states that no criminal proceedings shall be instituted against any abuser of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances if either he or one of his relatives submits a request for addiction treatment and rehabilitation and voluntarily presents himself to an addiction treatment unit. For this reason, we encourage anyone in this situation to get in touch with the National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) on the number: 8002252. They should do this whilst also seeking aid from other institutions of rehabilitation and support. So as diligent parents if we see any signs of addiction and drug abuse in our children then we should not hesitate to contact these institutions of support, as they exist to preserve and safeguard our children and to protect them from all manners of evil. In this manner we can protect the most vulnerable of our children and create and strengthen the connection of support that exists within our homeland through a nationwide effort that helps reintegrate our affected children, allowing them to recover and invest their talents for a better future.

And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on the martyrs, and grant their families with patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. And continue perpetuating blessings and bounties upon the UAE. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah, bless us, bless us, bless us. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful and in the next life that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. Remember Allah and He will remember you, Stand up for prayer.